

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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SUBJECT: CODELS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON AND ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY
JENKINS FROM AMBASSADOR

REF: CAIRO 16136

1. AS YOU KNOW, IN PAST TWO WEEKS CAIRO EMBASSY HOSTED SIX CODELS
AND FOUR STAFFDELS WITH TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 168. VISITS WERE
GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL, SINCE THEY PROVIDED CODELS WITH OPPORTUNITY
TO GAIN FIRST HAND KNOWLEDGE OF EGYPT AND TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH
PRESIDENT SADAT AND PROMINENT EGYPTIAN LEADERS. AS NOTED REFTEL,
SEVERAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS AROSE DURING COURSE OF CODEL
VISITS TO WHICH I WISH INVITE DEPT'S ATTENTION SO THAT H CAN
FULLY
APPRISE FUTURE CODELS ON WHAT TO EXPECT ON ARRIVAL IN EGYPT.

A. VEHICLES: AFTER ARRIVAL, ONE CODEL (AND ONE STAFFDEL),
DECLINED TO USE RENTED VEHICLES OBTAINED FOR THEM AFTER PERMISSION
TO RENT CARS HAD EARLIER BEEN REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM DEPT.
IT WAS APPARENT THAT CONGRESSMAN WAS NOT AWARE THAT VEHICLE
HAD BEEN LEASED IN HIS NAME AND THAT 19FT510 FUNDS
WOULD BE USED TO COVER EXPENSE. REGRETFULLY, EMBASSY
MOTOR POOL DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT VEHICLES
TO SUPPORT CODEL VISITS. IT HAS BEEN OUR REGULAR PRACTICE
TO REQUEST FUNDS SO THAT VEHICLES MAY BE RENTED FOR
CODEL PARTY. CAR RENTAL AGENCIES, AS SUCH, DO NOT
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EXIST IN CAIRO. AFTER CODEL REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED,

WE CONTACT ONE OR TWO INDIVIDUALS CAPABLE OF ROUNDING UP SUFFICIENT VEHICLES TO SUPPORT VISIT. TO INSURE THAT DECENT VEHICLES ARE OBTAINED, RESERVATIONS HAVE TO BE MADE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS POSSIBLE AND AN UNDESIRE VEHICLE MUST BE PAID FOR WHETHER USED OR NOT. IF MEMBERS OF A CODEL WILL NOT REQUIRE A VEHICLE, THIS SHOULD BE DETERMINED IN ADVANCE IN WASHINGTON.

B. HOTELS: WE WERE ASTONISHED THAT SEVERAL CODELS HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF CRITICAL HOTEL SITUATION IN CAIRO. IT WAS ONLY WITH MY INTERVENTION WITH THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT SADAT THAT WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN ROOMS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE CODELS. HOTEL ROOMS IN CAIRO ARE ALWAYS DIFFICULT TO RESERVE BUT OCTOBER THROUGH APRIL IS HEIGHT OF TOURIST SEASON AND HOTELS ARE CONSTANTLY OVER-BOOKED DURING THIS PERIOD. WE ALWAYS WELCOME OFFICIAL VISITORS, BUT HOPE THAT ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF DIFFICULT HOTEL SITUATION IN CAIRO CAN BE PASSED TO THEM PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

C. 19FT510 FUNDS: SEVERAL CODEL AND STAFF MEMBERS REQUESTED CONVERSION OF 19FT510 FUNDS FROM EGYPTIAN POUNDS TO DOLLARS. SINCE THESE FUNDS HAVE NO CONVERTIBILITY INTO DOLLARS--THEY ARE STRICTLY A LOCAL CURRENCY ACCOUNT--WE ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE THIS EXCHANGE. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WERE EXPLAINED TO CODELS BEFORE THEY COME.

D. SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE: DURING COURSE OF THEIR VISITS TO CAIRO CODELS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING CORRESPONDENCE, MEMORANDA, NOTES OF MEETINGS, ETC. WE ALWAYS TRY TO PROVIDE THIS SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE BUT IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL REQUESTS OR TO DUPLICATE WORK ALREADY PERFORMED BY EMBASSY. OUR PROCEDURE ASSIGNS AN EMBASSY OFFICER AS REPORTEUR FOR MEETINGS WITH GOE OFFICIALS. THIS OFFICER PREPARES MESSAGE TO DEPT. WHICH IS CLEARED WITH SENIOR CODEL MEMBER PRIOR TO TRANSMISSION, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE SECRETARIAL CAPABILITIES TO PREPARE VERBATIM ACCOUNTS OF MEETINGS. TEXTS OF MESSAGES OR TAPES OF MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR CODELS IF DESIRED.

E. PASSPORTS: SEVERAL CODEL MEMBERS STATED H AND DOD HAD ADVISED THEM THEY NEEDED A SECOND PASSPORT IN ORDER TO ENTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EGYPT IF AN ISRAELI VISA IS AFFIXED TO THEIR FIRST PASSPORT. THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN EGYPT. GOE ACCEPTS PASSPORTS OF OFFICIAL TRAVELERS EVEN THOUGH THEY CONTAIN ISRAELI VISA. AS FAR AS EGYPT IS CONCERNED THE "TWO PASSPORT" SYSTEM IS NOT NECESSARY FOR MEMBERS OF CODELS.

2. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF ABOVE INFORMATION COULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF FUTURE CODELS SCHEDULING VISITS TO EGYPT.

EILTS

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